

# PLENTY

Winter 2022

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

**food gatherers**  
fighting hunger where we live

## **H**appy New Year from Food Gatherers and our network of 170 hunger-relief partners serving Washtenaw County!

In fiscal year 2021, amid continuing public health and economic challenges, our network collectively distributed the equivalent of 7.5 million meals to more than 62,000 children, adults, seniors, and veterans living in our community. When the pandemic hit in March of 2020, many pantries throughout the nation closed or vastly limited services. The majority of our partners here in Washtenaw County stayed open, adapted, and served more people than ever before!

Since the Great Recession, Food Gatherers has strategically invested in the capacity of our diverse network of partners. Last fiscal year, we provided food, deliveries, trainings, and cash grants valued at more than \$14 million to our network. With pantries and programs located throughout the County, groceries are available somewhere every day of the week, including weekends and evenings, and even by delivery!

As we face yet another COVID winter, we are still inspired to learn more and do more. **Last fall, Food Gatherers convened an Agency Advisory**

**Group, reflective of the diversity of our network,** to contribute valuable insights into the design, implementation, and evaluation of our efforts. As a result of their work, Food Gatherers recently launched a new **Outreach Partner/Ambassador program.**

This program invites community members to connect neighbors to existing resources in the community and provide feedback to Food Gatherers about the barriers people face when trying to access services. Specifically, we are seeking partners who are bilingual, are BIPOC community members, or work with specific populations. To learn more about being an Outreach Partner/Ambassador, please visit [www.foodgatherers.org/outreach](http://www.foodgatherers.org/outreach).

Food Gatherers' partnerships are truly the backbone of hunger-relief work in Washtenaw County. **It is only through working together that we can drive collective change and meet the challenges and opportunities ahead to build a resilient community served by an equitable food system.** We look forward to the innovative solutions this year will bring!

See a complete list of our partners at [www.foodgatherers.org/partners](http://www.foodgatherers.org/partners).



Food distribution volunteers and guests at partner programs in Washtenaw County. Photos courtesy of Jewish Family Services, U-M Maize and Blue Cupboard, Food Gatherers.

**Your support matters. Give now to share food and hope this year: [www.foodgatherers.org/WNL22](http://www.foodgatherers.org/WNL22)**

# Food Gatherers Annual Report

FY2021: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

## Fighting Hunger Together

Thank you for joining us for another year of fighting hunger where we live! As donors, volunteers, and compassionate neighbors, you are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors facing hunger. As you read the annual report, please take a moment to celebrate the power of our shared commitment to building a healthy and food-secure community. We also invite you to view the extended digital report online at [www.foodgatherers.org/FY21](http://www.foodgatherers.org/FY21). Thank you for driving this important work!



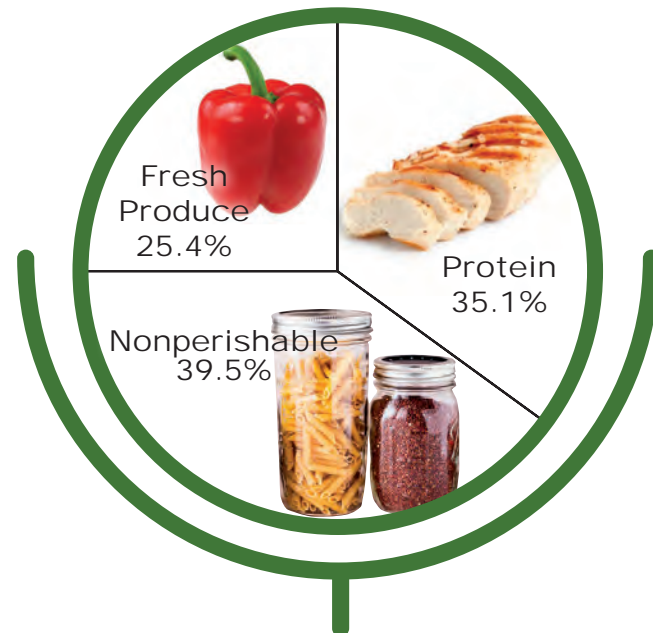
The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System launches its first grocery distribution

## Welcoming New Partners

In fiscal year 2021, our hunger-relief network expanded to include:

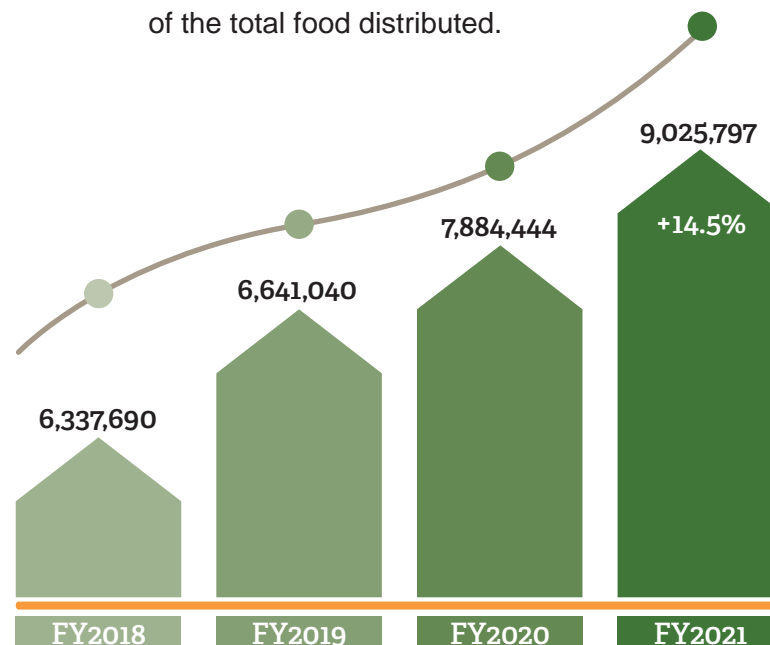
- Berea City of Hope
- Creekside Court (Community Action Network)
- Cross Street Village
- FedUp Ministries
- Masjid At-Taqwa
- U-M Maize and Blue Cupboard, North Campus
- VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- Whitmore Lake High School
- Ypsilanti Evangelical Friends Church

## A Record-Breaking Year



In fiscal year 2021, Food Gatherers distributed more than 9 million pounds of food — the equivalent of 7.5 million meals!

- More than **60%** was fresh produce or protein.
- On average, Food Gatherers and our network distributed about **20,607** meals per day.
- Rescued food accounted for **21%** of the total food distributed.



“This helps my family so much. Especially when it comes to the fresh fruit and vegetables, which are so expensive. My family and I are extremely appreciative and thankful for this program.”

– Pantry guest, Community Action Network



“I have a student who lives with his 92-year-old grandmother and her social security check didn't come on time. He was able to get food and toiletries for the week because of your support.”

– Ann Arbor High School Counselor, Healthy School Pantry Program

“I was happy to learn that [the food pantry] doesn't exist just for desperate situations. This will help decrease my regular grocery expenses and make room in my budget for my other needs.”

– Pantry guest, EMU Swoop's Food Pantry



The Summer Food Service Program is an essential source of meals when school is out.

## Program Highlights

- Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen served 65,456 meals at the Delonis Center in Ann Arbor.
- The Healthy School Pantry Program distributed 646,000 pounds of fresh produce and healthy groceries during the 2020-2021 school year, serving 1,300 families (including 1,336 children) each month, at 14 local schools.
- The Summer Food Service Program (2020) served 75,343 meals to children at 24 sites in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Milan, and Whitmore Lake.

## Volunteers

At our warehouse and Community Kitchen, 1,281 volunteers and National Guard members inspected, sorted, and packaged food, and prepared and served meals. They provided 43,487 hours of service!

## Board of Directors

**Simon Whitelocke, Chair, Vice President, ITC Holdings Corporation**

**Frank Carollo, Vice Chair, Retired, Zingerman's Bakehouse**

**Jim Lee, Secretary, Altarum Fellow, Altarum Institute**

**Christopher Tressler, Treasurer, Senior Director of Finance and Asset Accounting, Wacker Chemical Corporation**

**Eileen Spring, President & CEO, Food Gatherers**

**Susan Aaronson, Didactic Program Director, U-M School of Public Health**

**Felicia Brabec, Michigan House of Representatives, 55th District; Psychologist/Social Worker**

**Gary Bruder, Attorney, Bruder PLC**

**Tony Denton, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, U-M Health System**

**Kevin DiCola, Regional Director of Communications, St. Joseph Mercy Health System**

**Nell Dority, Chief of Staff, Vice President for Government Relations, U-M**

**Mary Kerr, President & CEO, Destination Ann Arbor**

**Cindy Leung, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences, U-M School of Public Health**

**Carla O'Connor, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, U-M School of Education; Director, U-M Wolverine Pathways**

**David Rhoades, Vice President, Digital Operations, Dawn Foods**

# Food Gatherers has earned Feeding America's Advocacy Hall of Fame status for 2021!

**F**ood Gatherers works with policymakers to advocate for investments in key federal nutrition programs that will best support community members facing food insecurity. Our current policy priorities include:

- Funding The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to better support food banks.
- Prioritizing increased child nutrition investments to help families struggling with hunger in the Build Back Better Act and future COVID recovery legislation.
- Passing Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation that strengthens Child Nutrition Programs including school meals, summer meals, child care meals, and WIC.

Learn more and sign up for advocacy alerts: [www.foodgatherers.org/advocate](http://www.foodgatherers.org/advocate).

## Upcoming Events

### Rotary Fights Child Hunger March 2022

Annual food and fund drive hosted by local Rotary clubs. To learn more visit [www.foodgatherers.org/rotary](http://www.foodgatherers.org/rotary).

### Stamp Out Hunger Saturday, May 14

The nation's largest single food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Look for details in your mailbox.

### Grillin' for Food Gatherers Sunday, June 12

Save the date and stay tuned for all the details!



**F**ood Gatherers is committed to sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. For the 17th year in a row, Food Gatherers received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, putting us in the top 1% of charities nationwide. We also earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar.



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